

# Russia to Build Embassy On Mt. Alto Hospital Site

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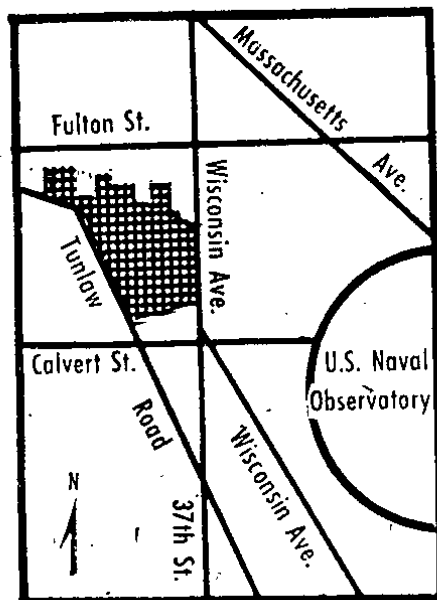
The Soviet government will locate its new embassy and chancery on the grounds of the old Mount Alto Veterans Hospital, it was learned yesterday.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko reportedly has told Secretary of State Dean Rusk that the 13-acre tract on Wisconsin Avenue is acceptable to his country.

The United States in turn has approved a site in downtown Moscow for the expansion of the American Embassy. The Moscow site is directly behind present Embassy buildings, a converted apartment house, in an area scheduled for redevelopment.

Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio), who made a 24-hour trip to Moscow last week to inspect the site, said that the location is acceptable. Hays is chairman of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on State Department operations.

Details of the exchange of property still must be worked out. Each country would make the land available on a long-term lease and each would fi-



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**SITE**—Shaded area covers site of the Mount Alto Hospital grounds.

nance construction of its own building.

Before the United States could build in Moscow, Congress would have to authorize the construction and appropriate funds.

The United States Government owns the Mount Alto site. The Veterans Hospital was moved to the Soldiers Home grounds two years ago. The buildings, originally con-

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This is old Mount Alto Veterans Hospital on Wisconsin Avenue nw., site for a new Russian embassy and chancery.

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## Russia Gets Mount Alto Hospital Site To Erect Its New Embassy-Chancery

structed in 1917 as a girls' school, are now being razed by the General Services Administration. The site has been valued at about \$8 million.

The agreement, culminates negotiations under way for several years between the two countries. The Soviet government has wanted more space than it has at its present embassy at 1125 16th st. nw. The United States also has been cramped in its Moscow location. Both sides sought the maximum of reciprocity.

The Soviet government tried to buy the Bonnie Brae estate at 6036 Oregon ave. nw. for an embassy-chancery complex. But residents of the area objected and the move was blocked by a 1964 Federal court order reversing the rezoning of the property that would have permitted the move.

Earlier this year, the Tregaron Estate in Cleveland Park was

offered as a site for the Soviet embassy-chancery by the heirs of the owner, Joseph E. Davies, former Ambassador to the Soviet Union. That proposal also raised zoning problems and the Russians apparently did not take the offer seriously.

The State Department made a tentative offer of Mount Alto to the Soviet government some months ago. A formal offer was not made until the Soviet government came up with an acceptable site in Moscow.

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